



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUPERVISOR RIDLEY-THOMAS HONORS VOICES OF DESTINY, “BEST CHURCH CHOIR IN AMERICA”

Winners of Verizon’s National “How Sweet the Sound” Gospel Competition

Los Angeles—Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas today honored Voices of Destiny of Greater Zion Church Family, winners of Verizon Wireless’ “How Sweet the Sound” national church choir competition. The Compton-based choir, which performed for the Board of Supervisors at today’s meeting, will use the \$25,000 competition prize to build a community center in their neighborhood.

“Voices of Destiny are a cultural treasure whose joyous music has inspired residents of the Second District for years,” said Supervisor Ridley-Thomas. “I am delighted that the entire nation has now had the opportunity to witness their immeasurable musical talent, as well as their admirable commitment to use that gift to reinvest in their community.”

Voices of Destiny, directed by Pastor Michael J. Fisher, were awarded the top gospel prize last month in a competition hosted by CeCe Winans, Marvin Sapp, Hezekiah Walker, Kelly Price and Donald Lawrence. In addition to their nationally renowned musical performances, the choir has become a force for

change in their community, sharing their gifts at senior centers, providing school supplies to children and youth, and hosting health fairs and benefit concerts.

"We congratulate Voices of Destiny for the amazing talent and passion they demonstrated throughout the competition," said Elva Lima, Verizon Wireless' Executive Director of community relations and multicultural communications. "Verizon's 'How Sweet the Sound' is an opportunity to celebrate the unique ways that music connects people, and we are proud to share it with customers and fans."

A video of Voice's of Destiny's performance for the Board of Supervisors will be posted on Supervisor Ridley-Thomas's website, <http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov/>

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